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COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, MARCH 30, 2001

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUC970006

Ex Parte: To determine prices  
GTE South, Inc. is authorized  
to charge Competitive Local  
Exchange Carriers and wholesale  
discounts for services available  
for resale in accordance with the  
Telecommunications Act of 1996  
and applicable state law

ORDER CLOSING CASE

On December 11, 1996, the Commission entered its Order  
Resolving Rates for Unbundled Network Elements and  
Interconnection, Wholesale Discount for Services Available for  
Resale, and Other Matters in Case Nos. PUC960117, PUC960118,  
PUC960124, and PUC960131. This Order established, inter alia,  
interim prices for unbundled network elements that GTE South,  
Inc. n/k/a Verizon South Inc. ("Verizon South") is obligated  
under the Telecommunications Act of 1996, 47 U.S.C. § 251  
("Act") to make available to requesting telecommunications  
carriers who wish to provide services in Verizon South's  
operating area.

By Order dated February 19, 1997, the Commission  
established this proceeding and directed Verizon South and other

interested parties to file, inter alia, pricing and rate proposals, along with cost models and studies to support their proposed prices and rates. The Order also set out a procedural schedule for this case.

On March 27, 1997, Verizon South filed a motion to modify this procedural schedule, and by Order dated April 30, 1997, the Commission suspended the procedural schedule. On September 4, 1997, the Commission invited interested parties to submit comments as to rescheduling the proceeding. Comments on this issue were received by the Commission from a number of parties on September 26, 1997.

On December 2, 1997, the Commission issued an Order continuing the case generally, finding that there was not an urgent need to re-establish the procedural schedule. The Commission stated that the interim prices established by the December 11, 1996, Order of the Commission remain available to parties interested in negotiating interconnection agreements with Verizon South and permit an avenue by which the market for local exchange telecommunications services in Verizon South's service territory may be opened. We found that until such time as there are more interconnection agreements in place between Verizon South and its competitors, the need for permanent prices remained largely theoretical.

On November 29, 1999, the Commission entered an Order approving the merger of Bell Atlantic Corporation and GTE Corporation in Case No. PUC990100. In that Order, we noted that Verizon South was providing unbundled network elements and services under interim prices. We stated that, upon appropriate request, we would consider establishing permanent prices for Verizon South in this case.

Since the date of that Order, the Commission has received no requests for the establishment of permanent prices for Verizon South. Therefore, since there have been no requests for further Commission action in this case for more than a year, we find that this case should be closed without prejudice.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT this case be, and hereby is, DISMISSED from the docket of active cases.